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## InformationWeek

BUSINESS INNOVATION POWERED BY TECHNOLOGY

### Rhode Island Extends Rural Wi-Fi

Gov. Donald L. Carcieri has provided a \$200,000 grant to install a base station in rural Foster. That station, in turn, will connect to base stations already installed in Providence and Newport.

By W. David Gardner, [TechWeb News](#)

Aug. 1, 2006

URL: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=191601076>

The Rhode Island Wireless Innovation Networks (RI-WINS) said Tuesday it plans to extent its Wi-Fi network to rural Foster.

The program, which is seeking to install a giant border-to-border broadband mobile network, has received a boost from Gov. Donald L. Carcieri in the form of a \$200,000 grant to fund the installation of a base station in the rural community. The Foster base station will connect to base stations already installed in Providence and Newport.

"Supporting the extension of the RI-WINS pilot into Foster will not only speed up our efforts to make Rhode Island the first state in the country with a border-to-boarder broadband mobile network, it creates an opportunity to bring infrastructure into a rural community where this kind of technology is not yet available," the governor said in a statement.

The Business Innovation Factory (BIF), which is a group of Rhode Island agencies and entities that support the RI-WINS project, noted that the current pilot program is designed to test applications and to troubleshoot issues before the statewide deployment takes place.

"Foster is by far one of the most underserved communities in the state and it is safe to say that most residents do not have broadband access." said BIF spokesperson Melissa Withers in an e-mail.

The RI-WINS program is currently supporting 8 pilot applications, she said, adding that support is being provided by several partners including Brown University, CVS, and several Rhode Island State agencies. "I believe that 150 people are fully trained and provisioned as of today," she said.

BIF founder Saul Kaplan observed that the program is capable of providing "vital connectivity and mobile data sharing (for) ambulance technicians, fire fighters, and police on the go

throughout the state."

RI-WINS estimates the Foster pilot application will be operational in four to six months.

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Moss

From: "Bob Lopp" <bob@bigskyhsd.com>  
Subject: **Rural Communities Broadband Access**  
Date: February 17, 2009 11:53:21 AM MST  
To: <lyndamoss@imt.net>

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Lynda,

I wish to register our support for the Broadband Access bill currently under consideration. We are working closely with the Montana Economic Revitalization and Development Institute to develop plans for delivering broadband access to underserved areas in Montana. Specifically, in many of our communities those folks in town are able to get service, but the farmers and ranchers outside of the three mile radius of traditional telco service are under or un-served.

As a small Venture Capital firm we have invested in wireless broadband properties, including the largest wireless provider in Butte. However, the capital requirements of most broadband models do not support the infrastructure build-out required to deliver service to our most rural citizens. The net impact is that without broadband access, rural households cannot fully participate in the educational, commerce and employment opportunities that are available to those in town.

We have a number of opportunities to deliver jobs to Montanans that are ideally suited for rural candidates that are seeking full or part time employment that require broadband access. This legislation would open these jobs to Montanans that currently cannot qualify because of the service limits that exist today.

Thank you,

Bob

Robert Lopp  
Partner  
Enable Ventures  
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SB 355  
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# NORFOLK DAILY NEWS

November 2005

## Foundation looks to give young people reason to stay

By JERRY GUENTHER  
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Tremendous giving is helping to provide tremendous opportunities for rural areas across Nebraska.

At the Nebraska Community Foundation's annual meeting in Norfolk on Thursday, stories were shared and awards presented for communities' ingenuity in raising funds or helping to make towns more attractive to young people.

Jeff Yost, president and chief executive officer of the Nebraska Community Foundation, said Nebraskans have a history of giving time, talent and treasure to churches and higher education.

In recent years, Nebraskans are broadening their charitable giving to include their communities, providing incentives to get more young people to return or stay in their communities, he said.

Yost is a native of Red Cloud, which also was the home of author Willa Cather. There was probably no other author whose writings emphasized a sense of place more than Cather, he said.

Similarly, Nebraskans need to be aware of their sense of place and recognize that rural areas can compete with metro areas, Yost said.

With broadband connections and high-speed Internet, more people can choose to live and work anywhere they want, he said.

Nebraska towns need to look for ways to provide incentives for young people to stay, increase young people's sense of ownership and foster entrepreneurship, Yost said.

More also needs to be done to make young people aware of the opportunities that already exist in their hometowns, Yost said.

Depending on size, most Nebraska small towns could achieve population stabilization by retaining five to 10 more students from each graduating class, he said.